

## BCDC Staff Profiles

Revised April 19, 2004

### Executive Management

*The Executive Director (Exempt) manages all of the Commission's affairs, directs the staff in the implementation of the Commission's laws, regulations and policies, and serves as the Commission's confidential assistant.*

**Will Travis** holds Bachelor of Architecture and Master of Regional Planning degrees from Penn State University. From 1970 to 1972 he served as BCDC's first Bay Development Design Analyst. He then spent 12 years with the California Coastal Commission where he held a number of positions, including heading the agency's offshore oil drilling permit staff, directing its public access program, and overseeing its budget and administrative functions. He returned to BCDC in 1985 as Deputy Director. He was appointed Executive Director in 1995.

Mr. Travis has spent most of his professional career working for state coastal management agencies, but he has also worked in the fields of architecture, local planning, private consulting, advertising and public relations. He has written many articles on coastal issues, has provided advice on coastal matters to other states and nations, and has been a lecturer at universities throughout North America. He served as BCDC's representative on, and chairman of the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee which administered a multi-million dollar settlement fund set up to claims resulting from a 1988 oil spill. In that capacity, he directed the public acquisition of 10,000 acres of salt ponds along the northern shoreline of San Pablo Bay which will be restored to tidal wetlands.

Mr. Travis serves on the board of directors of the Forum for the Future of San Francisco Bay and the community advisory board of KB Home Corporation. He has also served on the editorial board of the newsletter *Estuary*; the board of directors of Friends of the Estuary; and the steering committee of the Bay Area Transpor-

tation Choices Forum. He was an advisory for the National Ocean Service's San Francisco Bay Project and a member of the Berkeley Planning Commission.

*The Deputy Director and Chief of Regulatory Services (Career Executive Assignment II) manages day-to-day staff operations and serves as the Acting Executive Director in the Executive Director's absence.*

**Steven McAdam** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree of the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. He began his professional career in 1974 as Save San Francisco Bay Association's first Program Coordinator. He joined the Commission's staff in 1977 as its first Enforcement Officer. In 1983 he was appointed Assistant Executive Director for Governmental Affairs where he was responsible for a number of Commission programs including legislation, water policy, airport and seaport planning, the San Francisco Estuary Project, public access planning, intergovernmental coordination, and public affairs. From 1992 to 1996 he supervised BCDC's regulatory operations as the Commission's Assistant Executive Director for Permits, Enforcement and Technical Services. He retained those management duties and took on those of the Deputy Director when he was appointed to his current position in July 1996.

Mr. McAdam has written many articles on Bay issues and his master's thesis was on enforcement in coastal management agencies. He serves on the editorial board of the newsletter *Estuary* and has been a guest lecturer at universities throughout the Bay Area. He served as the Commission's representative on the Management Committee of the San Francisco Estuary Project. He was the Commission's alternate representative on the Shell Oil Spill Litigation Settlement Trustee Committee and is on the board of directors of the Bay Trail Project and the Friends of the Estuary.

*The **Executive Secretary** (Executive Secretary II) provides secretarial support for the Commission's executive section and manages all of the office's secretarial work.*

**Graciela Gomez** was appointed Executive Secretary in 1995. She is a graduate of the Adelante, Inc. Clerical Program. She joined

BCDC's staff as a Seasonal Clerk in 1983 to serve as the Commission's receptionist. She was subsequently promoted to an Office Assistant, then to a Word Processing Technician, and then to an Office Technician. From 1989 through 1995, she served as BCDC's Planning Secretary. She is fluent in Spanish.

## Permits, Enforcement and Technical Services

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*The **Chief of Permits** (Coastal Program Manager) supervises the day-to-day operations of the permit staff and serves as the Acting Chief of Regulatory Affairs in the Deputy Director's Absence.*

**Robert Batha** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology from the University of California at Davis and a Master of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Michigan where he emphasized ecology and population biology. Before joining BCDC's staff in 1978, he was a research associate at the Stanford Research Institute and a naturalist in the California State Park system's interpretive services unit. At the Commission, he has worked in both the permit and planning sections and as the staff biologist. He is the principal author of several studies on mitigation, transportation, and the impacts of small fills on Bay resources. He served as the Commission's staff biologist before being appointed Chief of Permits in 2000.

*The **Principal Permit Analyst** (Coastal Program Analyst III) handles the most difficult permits, provides guidance to more junior staff, and serves as the Acting Chief of Permits in the Chief's absence.*

**Andrea Gaut** received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Irvine in Environmental Studies and a Masters degree in Environmental and Conservation Biology Policy from Yale University. She worked for BCDC in 1995 as an intern in the dredging program and returned to BCDC in 1998. Between 1995 and 1998, she was employed by a consulting firm where she prepared environmental planning documents and conducted public scoping efforts for Bay Area projects, and she worked at the San Francisco Estuary Project with staff from the San Francisco Bay Regional

Water Quality Control Board on water quality issues associated with the dredging and disposal of sediments in the Bay. While at the Estuary Project, she was involved in the preparation of the final environmental analysis for the San Francisco Bay dredging and disposal Long Term Management Strategy and management plan. She was appointed Principal Permit Analyst in 2000.

*The three **Permit Analysts** (Coastal Program Analyst I/II) evaluate proposed projects for conformity with the Commission's policies and regulations, prepare staff reports, make recommendations for Commission action, and review local, state and federal plans and environmental reports for projects affecting the Bay.*

**Leslie Lacko** has a Bachelor of Science degree in Conservation and Resource Studies, with a minor in Forestry, and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Science, Policy and Management, both from the University of California at Berkeley. She worked for several years in the construction industry and held internships with the State Coastal Conservancy and California Coastal Commission before joining BCDC's staff in 1999.

**Michelle Burt Levenson** received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Davis in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology. Prior to joining BCDC's staff in 2000, she worked as a project manager and environmental scientist for several environmental consulting companies where she prepared environmental documents. In addition, she volunteers her time to non-profit organizations aimed at preserving and enhancing habitats and species diversity within the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Jaime Michaels** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of California at Berkeley and a Masters degree in Geography from San Francisco State University. Since completing her undergraduate studies, she has worked exclusively in the environmental field at organizations such as the Sierra Club national headquarters and the Friends of the River Foundation. From 1987 until 1992, she was a student intern at the California Coastal Commission where she worked in both the enforcement and the energy and resources divisions. While at the Coastal Commission she co-authored a report on the impacts of sea level rise on the California coast. She joined BCDC's staff in 1992 as a member of the dredging unit. She transferred to the permits unit in 2002.

*The two **Bay Development Design Analysts** (Bay Development Design Analyst) evaluate proposals for conformance with the Commission's policies, review plans submitted pursuant to Commission permits, provide advice regarding the nature and design of public access along the shoreline, prepare staff reports, and act as secretaries to and are liaisons with the Design Review Board.*

**Brad McCrea** is registered landscape architect licensed in the State of California. Mr. McCrea holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of City Planning and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to joining BCDC's staff in 1998, Mr. McCrea worked for several landscape architecture and urban design firms in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has been an instructor and lecturer in landscape architecture at UC Berkeley, and has been a guest design critic at the College of Environmental Design. Mr. McCrea is an avid sailor on the San Francisco Bay and volunteers his time with a local sailing program.

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of the second Bay Development Design Analyst position.

*The **Staff Engineer** (Senior Engineer) provides technical advice to the Commission and staff on engineering matters, evaluates proposals for conformance with the Commission's policies, reviews engineering*

*plans submitted pursuant to Commission permits, is the staff's principal contact with Caltrans, and is liaison with the Engineering Criteria Review Board.*

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of the Staff Engineer position.

*The **Permit Secretary** (Office Technician, Typing) provides secretarial support for the permit section, and assists other sections of the office as needed.*

**Reyna Amezcua** graduated in Computer Operations from Mission Language and Vocational School. She also studied printing technology at San Francisco City College. She worked for seven years as a typesetter at "Tiempo Latino," the Spanish newspaper which serves the Bay Area's Latino community. In 1990 she was hired as an Office Assistant II to serve as the BCDC's Permit Secretary. She was promoted to Office Technician in 1991. In addition to her other responsibilities, she serves as BCDC's notary public.

*The **Chief of Enforcement** (Coastal Program Analyst III) supervises the day-to-day operations of the enforcement staff.*

**Adrienne Klein** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in watershed restoration from the University of California, Santa Cruz. From 1996 to 2000 she was an Enforcement Analyst at BCDC. Before joining the Commission's staff, she spent four and a half years as an Enforcement Analyst at the California Coastal Commission where she acted as the enforcement program restoration specialist and co-authored policy guidelines on enforcement and beach erosion and response for use by local governments.

*The three **Enforcement Analysts** (Coastal Program Analyst I/II) investigate alleged unauthorized activities, prepare legal and factual research, negotiate resolutions of enforcement problems, review applications for permits resulting from enforcement actions and prepare reports and recommendations on these matters.*

**Andrea (Ande) Bennett** received a Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences with a minor in

Environmental Studies from Mills College in Oakland, and a Master of Landscape Architecture in Environmental Planning from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to joining the BCDC's staff in 1999, she worked as a consulting policy analyst for American Farmland Trust, as a consultant on natural resource planning to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, as the field program manager for hydrology consultant firm of Philip Williams and Associates, and as an intern with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board.

**Allen Brooks** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he focused on the study of coastal processes. In 1999, he received a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He has worked as a court-appointed mediator in Illinois where he also provided mediation services for the local community. As a legal associate in general practice he was involved in municipal representation, criminal defense, and tort litigation. Before joining BCDC's staff as an enforcement

analyst in 2000, he worked as an intern in the Commission's oil spill prevention program.

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of the third Enforcement Analyst position.

*The **Enforcement Secretary** (Senior Legal Typist) provides secretarial support for the Commission's legal and enforcement sections and assists other sections of the office.*

**Myrna Carter** has served the Commission for over 27 years in a variety of capacities. She prepares enforcement materials, including cease and desist orders, and monitors compliance. Her strong stenographic, typing and word processing skills have allowed her to support planning, regulatory and the executive functions within the staff at various times during her long tenure. She has successfully completed several clerical courses to add to and improve her secretarial skills, most recently receiving a certificate for "Secretarial Skills for the '90s." From 1996 to 1998, she was on a training and development assignment as a BCDC enforcement analyst.

## Planning

*The **Chief Planner** (Chief Planning Officer, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission) plans, directs and supervises the Commission's planning program, serves as technical advisor to the Commission and staff and provides liaison with governmental and private agencies on planning matters.*

**Jeffrey Blanchfield** received a Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science from Oregon State University and a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Oregon, Eugene. He has directed the development of area plans and general plan elements for local and regional governments in California and Oregon. Since joining BCDC's staff in 1971 he has managed the preparation and adoption of many of the Commission's plans including the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan, Suisun Marsh Local Protection Program and the Richardson Bay Special Area Plan, as well as many planning policy studies on issues ranging from house-

boats and live-aboard boats to water-related industry and the impacts of sea level rise on the Bay. He recently managed the study of the effects of land use change on the environmental health of the San Francisco estuary for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's San Francisco Estuary Program. He has presented papers on urban and natural resource planning issues nationally. He is also a member of the Marin Local Agency Formation Commission.

*The **Senior Planner** (Senior Planner, Supervisor) supervises the planning staff responsible for Bay Plan update studies and amendments; directs the development of special area plans; and handles the duties of the Chief Planning Officer in the Chief Planning Officer's absence.*

**Joseph LaClair** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Masters in Landscape Architecture and City and Regional Planning. He joined BCDC's staff in 1992 and served at

the Bay Design Analyst until he was appointed Senior Planner in 1997. From 1980 to 1986 he was a carpenter and building contractor constructing custom homes in the Pacific Northwest. After receiving his graduate degree in urban design from the University of California at Berkeley in 1989, he served an architectural internship in il Borro, Italy and then joined the staff of the City of Mountain View as an urban planner. At Mountain View he was a member of the city's Site Plan and Architectural Review Committee, served on project development teams for City capital projects, and developed the city's program for preserving an urban forest. He has presented papers on shoreline public access issues at professional conferences and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Bay Trail project.

*The **Senior Planner** (Senior Planner, Specialist) handles the most complex planning matters and is responsible for special area planning.*

**Caitlin Sweeney** has a Bachelor of Arts degree in biological and environmental studies from Mills College and a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Washington. She was appointed as Senior Planner in 2002 after serving three years at BCDC as an Associate Planner. Prior to joining BCDC's staff in 1999, she spent two years at the California Coastal Commission working in the Energy and Ocean Resources Unit on various tasks including permit analysis, oil spill prevention and response, and use of geographic information systems. As a planner with BCDC she has worked on a variety of planning projects including updates of the *San Francisco Bay Plan* and managing the Public Access and Wildlife Compatibility Project, which resulted in revisions to the BCDC's public access policies.

*The four **Planners** (Coastal Program Analyst I/II) carry out planning studies, serve as technical advisors to the Commission and staff on planning matters and are responsible for a variety of special planning projects.*

**Lisa Sniderman** received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors as an Environmental Stud-

ies major at the University of California, Santa Cruz and a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies at San Jose State University, with an emphasis on urban watershed management and water quality. She joined BCDC's staff in 1999 as an enforcement analyst. In 2001, she transferred to the planning unit where her focus is water quality issues. Prior to joining BCDC's staff, she worked as a creek groups coordinator for the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. From 1997 to 1999, she interned with the West Valley Clean Water Program, a local nonpoint source program in Santa Clara County, where she developed a creek and watershed monitoring strategy and implementation plan. From 1994 to 1997 she served as Senior Analyst for an energy consulting and utility auditing firm in San Jose. In 1994 she worked as a staff assistant for sustainable development and natural resources at the White House Office on Environmental Policy.

Two Planner positions are vacant, and budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of the fourth Planner position.

*The **Oil Spill Prevention and Response Analyst** (Coastal Program Analyst II) is part of BCDC's Oil Spill Program Team which carries out the Commission's responsibilities under the California Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act. The Analyst develops regulations, reviews spill contingency plans, prepares navigational safety plans, provides support and serve on a Harbor Safety Committee, and provides expertise and advice to the Commission and staff on oil spill prevention, contingency planning and oil spill containment and recovery.*

**Linda Scourtis** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Urban Studies from San Francisco State University, with a background in biology and conservation studies at the University of Maryland. Since joining BCDC's staff in 1993, she has participated in developing policy for the Bay Plan and the *San Francisco Bay Area Seaport Plan*, and serves as staff liaison to the Seaport Planning Advisory Committee. She also has authored a series of evaluations of the Commission's federal coastal management program.

*The NOAA Coastal Fellow is assigned to the Commission for two years to develop a volunteer water quality monitoring program for Bay marinas.*

**Ruby Pap** has a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from the University of Denver and a Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environment from the University of Michigan where she focused on environmental policy, institutional behavior, natural resources conflict resolution, and environment and development in the developing world. Before beginning

her assignment at BCDC in 2002, she worked on the Island of Jamaica, where she conducted her master's thesis research on institutional and household behaviors in solid waste management. As an undergraduate she studied island management in the Republic of Palau. She has also worked as a project manager for an industrial hygiene firm, as an imaging technician for a digital mapping firm, and as a park office manager at Eldorado Canyon State Park in Colorado. She enjoys hiking, biking, and scuba diving and is learning Tai Chi.

## Dredging Management and Legislative Affairs

*The Program Director (Career Executive Assignment I) (1) plans, organizes and directs the Commission's implementation of the provisions of the San Francisco Bay Dredging Act and participates in the implementation of the Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for San Francisco Bay dredging, (2) oversees the Commission's involvement in the CALFED Bay Delta program and (3) serves as the Commission's legislative coordinator and liaison to other governmental agencies.*

**Steven Goldbeck** holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Planning and Public Policy from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He has been on BCDC's staff since 1985 where he has specialized in technical planning issues, including water quality and energy. He has been the Commission's lead staff member on dredging issues for several years and was promoted to his present position in 1992. He has served as Co-chairman of the San Francisco Estuary Project's Dredging and Waterway Modification Committee, Manager of the Commission's LTMS reuse/upland studies, and Chairman of the LTMS Reuse/Upland Work group. He co-authored the section of the Estuary Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan on dredging and waterway modification and has presented papers on dredging issues at several professional conferences. He directed the development of the LTMS management plan and serves as a project manager of the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project.

*The two Dredging Program Analysts (Coastal Program Analyst I/II) conduct research on upland disposal and reuse issues, plan and document projects that demonstrate the reuse of dredged material, participate in the Long Term Management Strategy program, participate in the Dredged Material Management Office, process permits involving dredging and disposal, coordinate with other agencies and the public on dredging issues, and prepare reports and recommendations to the Commission, other agencies and the public.*

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of both Dredging Program Analyst positions.

*The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Analyst (Coastal Program Analyst I/II) analyzes and participates in CALFED programs relating to the Bay, processes permits and consistency determinations for CALFED work and provides staff support for BCDC's participation on the CALFED Management and Executive Groups.*

**Brenda Goeden** has a Bachelor of Arts in marine biology from Occidental College and twelve years of experience developing and facilitating California marine conservation programs, as well as teaching marine education. She has consulted with a variety of environmental organizations, preparing educational program evaluations. She participates in the Gulf of the Farallones Beach Watch Program and Oil Spill Response Team, is a featured

author in Heal the Bay's quarterly newsletter and rehabilitates insectivore songbirds through WildCare. She joined BCDC's staff in 2000 after an internship with the Commission during which she prepared BCDC's 1999 annual report.

*The Dredging and Planning Secretary (Office Technician, Typing) provides secretarial support for the Commission's dredging and planning sections and assists other sections of the office.*

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of this position.

## Legal Services

*The **Chief Counsel** (Staff Counsel III) provides overall management and supervision of the Commission's legal support activities.*

**Jonathan Smith**, who has worked for the Commission since 1980, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Civilization from Williams College and a Juris Doctor degree from Hastings College of the Law where he emphasized environmental and land use law. He holds an L. L. M. in environmental law with highest honors from the National Law Center, George Washington University. He has worked as a court law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, in private practice, and for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District. He served in U.S. Army Intelligence for three years.

*The **Staff Counsel** (Staff Counsel) provides legal support, advice and assistance to the Commission's staff, serves as liaison with the Attorney General's Office and the Office of Administrative Law, prepares and present enforcement cases.*

**Ellen Sampson** has been on the Commission's staff since 1988. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, with an emphasis in public resource and environmental law. She has clerked for the Pacific Northwest Intertribal Fish Commission, was on the staff of a legal clinic in Portland and has worked in private practice in California. Before joining the legal profession, she received a Master of Science degree, taught biology courses and managed a small business.

## Administrative Services

*The **Assistant Executive Director, Administration** (Staff Services Manager II) manages the Commission's administrative services including personnel, budgeting, accounting, contracts, business services, facility operations, information technology, and Commission meetings.*

**Howard Iwata** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining BCDC's staff in 1997, he spent over 15 years working for a number of California State agencies. He was an audit appeals coordinator at the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, an auditor at the State Controller's Office, and worked in the budget offices of the California Departments of Corrections, Fish and Game, and Developmental Services. From 1991 until 1997 he was the Administrative Officer of the Department of Fish

and Game's Wildlife Protection Division. He serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the Wildlife Forensic DNA Foundation and has been involved with many community sports organizations.

*The **Personnel Officer** (Associate Personnel Analyst) administers personnel actions, prepares personnel analyses for job classifications, coordinates classification and pay, conducts civil service exams, serves as liaison between BCDC and Department of Personnel Administration and State Personnel Board, and serves as the Assistant Executive Director, Administration in the Assistant Executive Director's absence.*

**Sharon Louie** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. She joined BCDC's staff in 1977 as its Planning Secretary. She has

been promoted several times and became the Associate Administrator in 1986. She has also worked for the Secretary of State in Los Angeles, and is a licensed real estate agent.

*The **Budget Officer** (Associate Budget Analyst) develops, maintains and monitors BCDC's budget, serves as liaison between BCDC and the Department of Finance.*

**Richard Ng** holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with emphasis in accounting from the University of California at Berkeley. He joined BCDC's staff in 2000 after working at the California Coastal Commission, first as a budget officer and later as a fiscal officer in charge of the budget and accounting units. He also worked in the Oakland Unified School District's Research, Planning and Budget Department as a Senior Budget Analyst.

*The **Accounting Officer** (Accounting Officer Specialist) performs professional accounting duties in the establishment and maintenance of accounts and financial records for BCDC activities and coordinates with California Coastal Commission's accounting staff.*

**Sabrina Shui** has over twelve years of experience in accounting with the California Employment Development Department where she worked as a Senior Accounting Officer. She has a strong background in planning, organizing and training in the field of accounting.

*The **Contracts Manager** (Associate Governmental Program Analyst) administers BCDC contracts, grant management, and provides guidance on contract rules, regulations and Department of General Service guidelines.*

Budget reductions have resulted in the elimination of the Contracts Manager position.

*The **Business Service Officer** (Staff Services Analyst) coordinates BCDC's procurement process, claims for reimbursement, invoices and other related fiscal documents, maintains property records, Commission's vehicle, facility operations, and Commission meetings.*

**Leslie Muse** joined BCDC's staff in 1996 after spending six years as the lead staff member in the California Coastal Commission's business services department. She also spent ten years working in various positions at the California School for the Deaf. She is bilingual in sign language.

*The **Chief Information Officer** (Associate Information Analyst) is responsible for managing the Commission's computer system and developing information technology solutions to Bay resource management issues.*

**Chris Besenty** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies and Planning from Sonoma State University. He joined the Commission's staff in 1995 as a planning intern on the North Bay Wetlands Protection Program where he focused on using Internet and Geographic Information Systems technology in the development of a regional wetlands and agricultural protection plan. In 1998, he was appointed to his current position to oversee the development and management of the Commission's information systems and related interagency partnerships. Mr. Besenty has served as the Commission's liaison on several planning projects, has assisted in the development of the San Francisco Estuary Institute's EcoAtlas, and has provided consulting services to other resource agencies and private firms.

*The **Network Specialist** (Associate Information Systems Analyst) provides assistance in network management, user support, and the development and maintenance of the Commission's information systems.*

**Hermin Farhad** received a Bachelor of Science in computer science from California State University, San Bernardino, where she was also employed to create and maintain data bases and provide user support. Prior to joining BCDC's staff in 2000, Ms. Farhad provided network administration, support and training at the California Conservation Corps. She has also worked for the California Department of Health Services on maintaining the department's information system.



*The **Administration Secretary and Receptionist** (Office Technician, Typing) provides secretarial support for the executive and administration sections, serves as the office receptionist, and assists other sections of the office as needed.*

**Estella M. Corona** was born in Mexico but has lived in the United States since she was ten years old. She attended the College of San Mateo's Nursing Program and worked in various divisions of California Department of Corporations for 12 years before joining BCDC's staff in 1996. On weekends she works as secretary and receptionist in her husband's roofing business. She speaks Spanish fluently.